



# RAIL VISION



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## Fiscal Management and Control Board Briefing

APRIL 30, 2018

**massDOT**  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation



## Purpose of the Presentation

Solicit FMCB feedback on:

- Current assumptions guiding the Rail Vision
- Purpose of MBTA Rail Service
- Current approach to stakeholder involvement
- Identification of Peer Systems

Update FMCB on schedule

## Project Goal

The goal of the Rail Vision is to leverage the MBTA's extensive commuter rail network to best meet the transportation and economic growth needs of the region.

The Rail Vision is not addressing, but is informed by the work underway by the:

- Commission on the Future of Transportation in the Commonwealth
- MBTA Strategic Plan
- Focus40
- State Rail Plan
- MassDOT/MBTA Capital Investment Plan

# Study to Model up to Eight Service Alternatives

Alternatives to consider mix of service and investment elements

- New vehicle technology
- System electrification
- High level platforms
- Station placement
- Double and triple tracking
- Facility needs
- Changes in frequency
- More express service
- Span of service
- Skip stop
- Transfer hubs
- Operational feasibility
- Order of magnitude operating and capital costs

# Current Assumptions

- **Cost Considerations** Vision will not be financially constrained, but must be implementable
- **Motive power and rolling stock** Vision will evaluate new technologies, fleets, full electrification
- **Tradeoffs** Vision will explore alternatives with tradeoffs
- **Geographic Scope** Vision will focus primarily on the existing system
- **Fare and Parking Policies** Vision will be coordinated with Fare Policy and Parking efforts, but will not lead those discussions
- **Management and Oversight** Vision will assume current management and oversight structure

Are these assumptions correct?

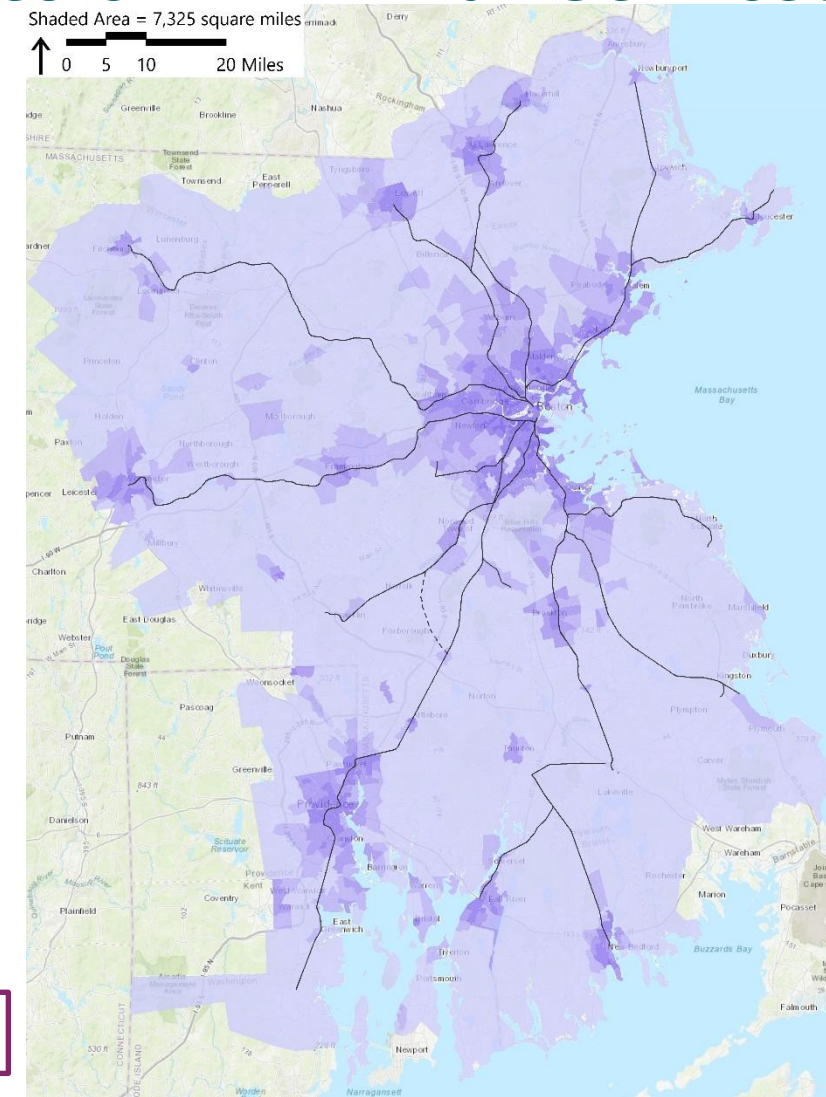
# Key Guiding Question – What are the Purposes of MBTA Rail Service?

1. Reduce highway congestion, auto emissions, and VMT by focusing on long-distance trips?
2. Provide service in inner system that operates more like rapid transit?
3. Enable access to Boston's employment pool for job clusters beyond the inner core by focusing on reverse commutes?
4. Support economic development in Gateway Cities by focusing schedules/service levels on needs of those communities?

All of the above = \$\$\$\$

Prioritizing some trip types over others = Tradeoffs

What is the mission of the MBTA rail system?



## Rail Vision Stakeholder Engagement

- Targeted briefings have begun; **full engagement process to commence in June**
- In addition to outreach targeted at everyday riders or other interested parties (public meetings, station pop-ups, online surveys), Rail Vision proposes to solicit input through more targeted mechanisms:

### Advisory committee

- 15-20 members
- Represent geographic diversity
- Diversity of perspectives (business, advocacy, regional planning, equity, etc.)

### Cities and Towns

Working with MAPC to tap into forum of mayors and managers to incorporate more regional perspectives

### Legislative Input

Seeking guidance and input from the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Transportation for the best approach for receiving legislative input in the process.

Is this the right approach to outreach?



# Early Task – Peer Systems Review



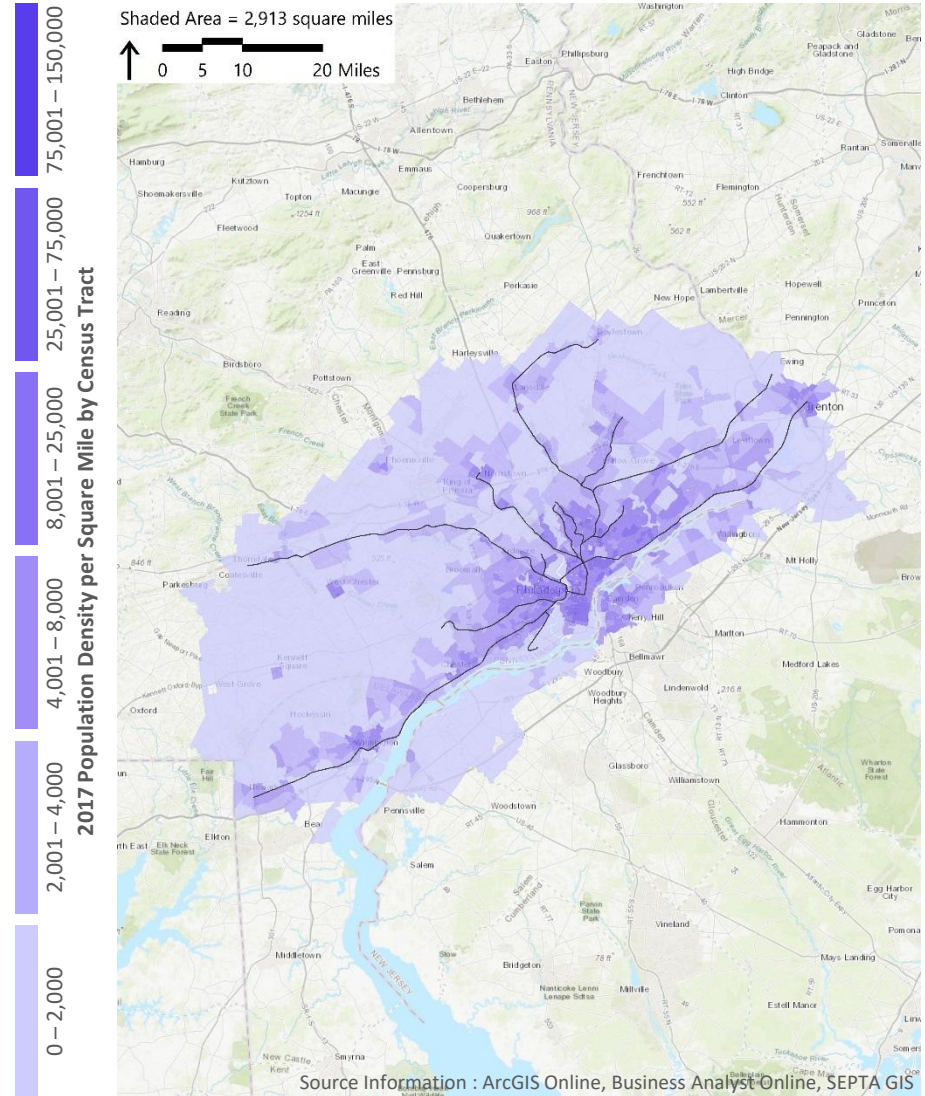
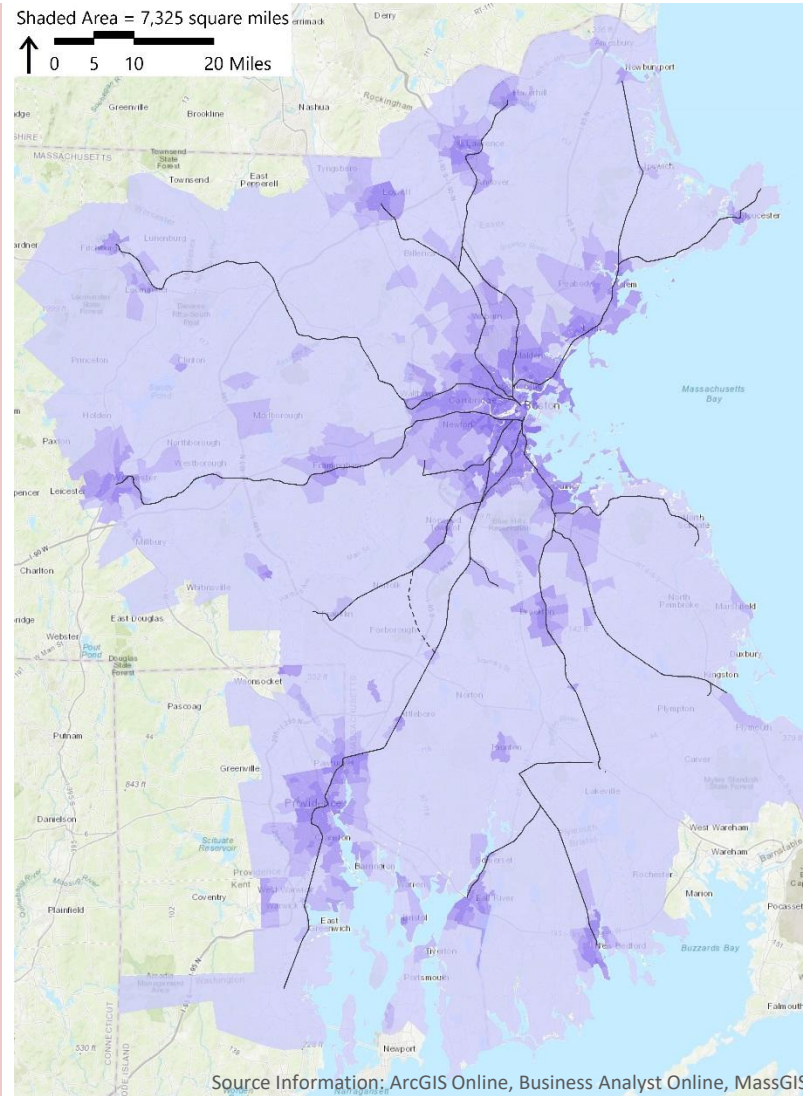
Learn about other systems' operational efficiencies, and the types of investments they are pursuing.

Are there other rail systems we should study?



# Example- Philadelphia

- Similar demographics and land use as Boston
- Much smaller service area
- Serves similar number of riders over fewer route miles
- Lower operating expenses (per passenger and per mile)
- Fully electrified, through-running system with three central terminals



2017 Population Density per Square Mile by Census Tract

0 – 2,000

2,001 – 4,000

4,001 – 8,000

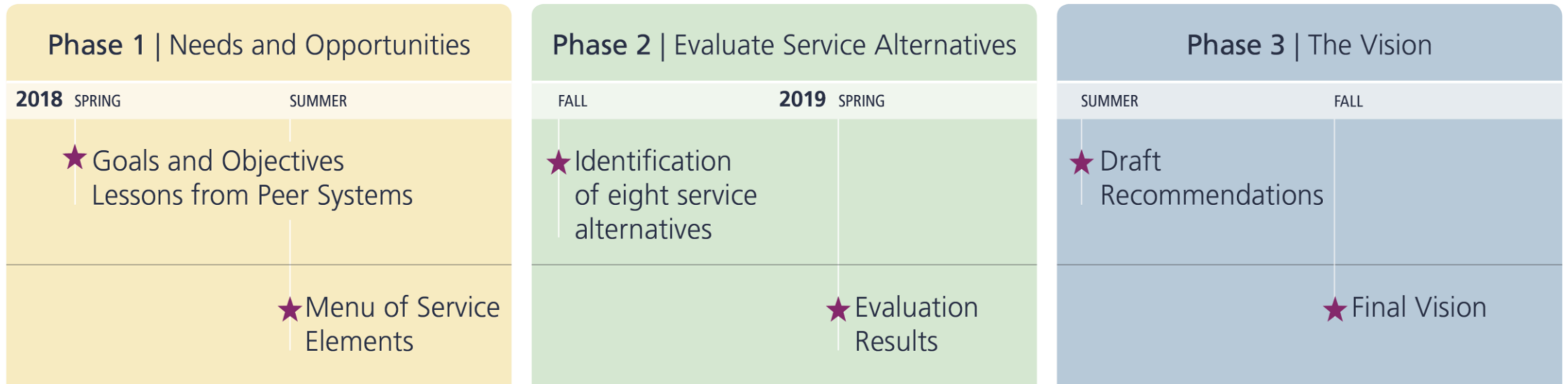
8,001 – 25,000

25,001 – 75,000

75,001 – 150,000

## Future FMCB Briefings

- Rail Vision Team will provide the FMCB with regular project updates and seek input at key project milestones (identified below)



★ FMCB Input